

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reserving a space from among a plurality of spaces at a location, said method comprising the steps of:

~~inputting~~ receiving a reservation request inputted into a graphical user interface of a reservation system utilized to provide reservations for one of the plurality of spaces at said location ~~via a graphical user interface (GUI)~~, said reservation request including date and time information for which said reservation is made;

providing an electronic payment method for receiving payment for an issued selected reservation period corresponding to said reservation request; and

receiving outputting, in response to said ~~providing step~~ the receipt of payment, a reservation coupon, which includes an identifying bar code that enables access to the location via a bar code reader, and wherein when the reservation assigns a particular space among the plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon also includes a space identifier indicating the particular space that is assigned to the reservation.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

instructing a recipient of the reservation coupon to the step of visibly display[[ing]] said reservation coupon to allow said identifying bar code to be read when said reservation coupon travels is used while passing through an entrance and an exit of said location; and

tracking use of the space and remaining available spaces within the location by monitoring which reservation coupons are presented at the entrance and exit of the location.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein when only a predetermined percentage of spaces are available at said location, said providing step includes the step of:

activating an auction utility to enable multiple users to start first bidding for one of said spaces, wherein a user with a highest bid is awarded the space and issued a corresponding reservation coupon.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a request to extend said reservation period from the recipient of the reservation coupon;
extending said reservation period when there space has not been previously issued to another recipient, wherein said extending occurs after said reservation coupon period has been issued and said extending is updated within the reservation system to apply to the previously issued reservation coupon began; and
providing requesting an electronic payment for an extension to a reservation acquired by said extending step, wherein said electronic payment is received prior to said reservation period being extended when there is no monitoring of the location to collect payment for the additional reservation.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said space is a parking space, and said method further comprises the step of selecting a valet option with said reservation request, wherein a valet receives the recipient's vehicle at a predetermined valet location and parks the recipient's vehicle within the location at the beginning of the reservation period and the valet retrieves and delivers the recipient's [[a]] vehicle of said customer at a beginning and an end of said reservation period, respectively.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
enabling connection of connecting a customer terminal to a reservation website via the Internet; and
enabling a customer interaction via interacting with said graphical user interface (GUI) to transact said reservation request.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of setting up a customer account with personal and payment information to reduce customer interface time with said GUI when making said a subsequent reservation request.

8. (Currently Amended) A space reservation computer system comprising:
a database of locations that each provide a plurality of spaces that may be reserved;
a graphical user interface that receives a customer's request for a space at one of said locations;
an availability utility that determines whether said space is available;
electronic payment mechanism for receiving electronic payment to reserve the space for the customer; and
output means for, in response to said space being available, providing said customer with a printable[-out of a] reservation coupon containing information by which access to said location is controlled, wherein when the reservation assigns a particular space among the plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon also includes a space identifier indicating the particular space that is assigned to the reservation.
9. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 8, further comprising a customer terminal on which said GUI is displayed.
10. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 8, further comprising an auctioning utility that:
monitors a number of spaces available at each of said locations; and
in response to a reservation request at a location that has less than a predetermine number of spaces available, activates an auction for each of said number of spaces available, wherein each space is reserved to a highest bidder.
11. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 8, further comprising a server on which said GUI and said availability utility are executed, wherein said server is coupled to said database of locations and periodically updates said database of location based on current use of the reserved spaces and current availability of spaces previously reserved.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 11, further comprising a location monitoring mechanism linked to said server and which monitors an entrance and exit of said location to determine when said space is utilized and provides feedback of a utilization of said space to said server.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 12, wherein said reservation coupon includes a bar code readable by a remote bar code scanner, wherein further said location monitoring mechanism includes said remote bar code scanner and monitors an entry into and exit from said location by requiring the customer scan said reservation coupon at the entrance and exit of the location.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 12, wherein said server automatically updates said database of locations in response to both an acceptance of a reservation request and said utilization.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 13, wherein, when said utilization exceeds a reservation period, an additional charge is accrued and billed to said customer.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 8, further including a seasonal adjusting utility that dynamically increases customer's cost for said space during seasons/periods with a high number of reservations period.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 8, further comprising an extension utility that allows said customer to extend a reservation request after said reservation coupon has been printed period has begun when the reserved space had not been allocated to another customer, wherein the extension utility updates the reservation period linked to the coupon code by an additional period upon payment by the customer for the additional period.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 8, wherein said ~~system~~ location is a ~~car parking control system~~ for ~~[[a]] parking at an airport terminal parking location~~, wherein said ~~computer car parking control system~~ is linked to a flight reservation system and includes:

means for automatically querying an airline passenger booking a reservation within a flight reservation GUI whether the airline passenger desires to park a vehicle within the car park;
and

means for processing processes a request for said a parking reservation at a the car park of the airport terminal parking location for an airline passenger upon selection by the airline passenger of a car parking reservation option from within [[a]] the flight reservation GUI of the flight reservation system.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 8, wherein said location offers open reservation that allows any one of a plurality of spaces within said location to be utilized by a customer with a reservation coupon.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium;

program instructions stored on said computer readable medium for:

managing a database of locations that each provide a plurality of spaces that may be reserved;

providing a graphical user interface that receives a customer's request for a space at one of said locations and an availability utility that determines whether said space is available; and

in response to said space being available, outputting to said customer a printable reservation coupon containing information by which access to said one location is controlled, wherein when the reservation assigns a particular space among the plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon also includes a space identifier indicating the particular space that is assigned to the reservation.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 20, wherein said program instructions further comprise instructions for:

monitoring a number of spaces available at each of said locations; and

in response to a reservation request for a location that has less than a predetermine number of spaces available, activating an auction for each of said number of spaces available, wherein each space is bided for by one or more customers desirous of reserving the space and the space is reserved to a highest bidder among the one or more customers.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 20, further comprising program instructions that control receipt of information from a location monitoring mechanism that monitors an entrance and exit of said location to determine when said space is utilized and provides feedback of a [[said]] utilization of said space.

23. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 20, further including program instructions for implementing a season adjusting utility that dynamically increases customer's cost for said space during a high reservation period.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 20, further comprising program instructions for executing an extension utility that allows said customer to extend a reservation request after an initial said reservation has been received, wherein when the reservation is for a specific space, the period associated with the customer's coupon code is dynamically adjusted to reflect additional period added by the request to extend the reservation period has begun.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 20, wherein said computer program controls a car parking reservation system for parking a vehicle at an airline terminal, wherein, when said car parking ~~control~~ reservation system is linked to a flight reservation system, [[and]] said program instructions for controlling said car parking reservation system includes instructions for automatically ~~activating and~~ processing a request for a reservation at a terminal parking facility ~~for an airline passenger upon selection of~~ by selecting a car reservation option from within a flight reservation GUI.

26. (Currently Amended) A method, carried out by a server communicatively connected to a plurality of clients in a network environment, for managing a parking location having a plurality of separate parking spaces, said method comprising:

receiving, from one of said clients, a parking request for said parking location for a specific duration of time between a beginning time and an ending time;

accessing a database and determining a status of the parking location during the specific duration of time;

sending, over the network to the client, a printable reservation ticket having machine readable information including the beginning time and the ending time and identification information for a user using the client to make the parking request, wherein when the reservation ticket assigns a particular space among the plurality of separate parking spaces, the reservation ticket also includes a parking space identifier indicating the particular parking space that is assigned to the reservation.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 26 further comprising:

receiving a request to extend the duration of time with a new ending time for a parking request; and

updating the database with the new ending time.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 26, further comprising:

receiving information generated from the parking location as to an actual time that a car of the user enters and leaves the parking location; and

correlating the received information with the identification information read at the parking location from the machine readable information of the reservation ticket used for the car by the user.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 28, further comprising an automatic billing system based upon the received information for billing a user identified from the identification information an amount based upon the actual time the car entered and ~~left~~ exited the parking location and based upon whether the time was within a reserved time specified in the reservation or an extension added to the reservation.

30. (Currently Amended) A method, carried out by a server communicatively connected to a plurality of clients in a network environment, for managing a parking location having a plurality of separate parking spaces, said method comprising:

receiving, from one or more of said clients, a parking request for said parking location for a specific duration of time between a beginning time and an ending time;

accessing a database and determining a status of the parking location during the specific duration of time; and

initiating an auction for allocating a parking reservation for the parking location if the status of the parking location indicates a certain level of demand during the duration of time that is above a preset threshold level, wherein the parking request associated with the highest bidder is allocated the parking reservation and wherein, when the level of demand is not above the preset threshold level, the parking reservation is allocated without an auction.

31. (Currently Amended) A method, carried out by a server communicatively connected to a plurality of clients in a network environment, for managing a parking location having a plurality of separate parking spaces, said method comprising:

receiving, from one of said clients, a parking request for said parking location for a specific duration of time between a beginning time and an ending time;

accessing a database and determining a status of the parking location during the specific duration of time; and

automatically notifying a valet service to pick up a car at a designated location and to park the car at the parking location if the status of the parking location indicates an availability of one of the separate parking spaces for the duration, wherein the valet service electronically receives a reservation ticket for the parking location generated by the parking request and returns the car to the designated location for pick up by the customer who dropped off the car.